

The One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Annual Report

of

THE
HASLEMERE
SOCIETY



*FOR HASLEMERE
past, present and future*

1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010

Registered charity number 0255287

*The Haslemere Society (registered charity number 0255287)
is a member of the Civic Voice,
the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies
and the Haslemere Initiative. It is affiliated to the
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and the
Haslemere Educational Museum.*

Our membership grows steadily, and most of our two mailings a year are delivered by hand, courtesy of committee members and non-committee members, in order to cut down on postage costs. This is not an arduous task, as it is shared among many helpers, and can be an interesting and instructive way of getting to know what might be an otherwise unknown part of Haslemere and Hindhead - as well as including exercise and fresh air and being therefore *a good thing*. Please let Diana know (Tel: 01428-654 681, email: r-d-serman@haslemere.com) if you would be willing to help with deliveries.

You would be given a bundle of between 4 and 15 envelopes, with plenty of notice and a few days to complete the task.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010

President

ROBERT SERMAN FRICS*

Chairman

DAVID E SMITH BSc, FCA*

Vice-Chairman

NIGEL QUICK BSc CEng FICE

Secretary

JANE STOPFORD RUSSELL

Treasurer

JOHN STARK

Membership Officer

DIANA SERMAN

Committee

CHRISTOPHER ASHTON-JONES	MICHAEL DOVER
ANN FITCHETT	JOHN GREER*
CHRISTOPHER HARRISON*	GORDON MUSK
DEBBIE PEET	

Hon Auditor

CLARE DAVID MA ACA

*Planning Sub-committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 126th Annual General Meeting will be held on
Friday November 26th 2010 at 7.30pm in the Haslemere Hall, Bridge Street

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 27th November 2009
3. Report by the Chairman
4. Report by the Treasurer
5. Election of the Officers of the Committee
6. Talk by Paul Hoyland, Project Director of the A3 Hindhead Scheme
'The A3 Hindhead Tunnel Project - a View from the Top'

INFORMATION FOR AGM 2010

THE SPEAKER AT THIS YEAR'S AGM

Paul Hoyland is the Project Director for Balfour Beatty, the contractors appointed to construct the £370m A3 Hindhead Scheme. Mr Hoyland has huge experience of tunnelling. He graduated from Surrey University with an honours degree in Civil Engineering. Having been Senior Engineer on the Channel Tunnel project he is now Balfour Beatty's Chief Tunnelling Engineer. Anyone with any interest in this local project of national concern should find his talk fascinating.

SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

We welcome suggestions for events, speakers, outings etc. Please do come to the AGM prepared with any ideas. You will be able to air them loudly in front of the meeting or place them quietly in a suggestion box.

2009 AGM MINUTES AND MEMBERS' BADGES

Please bring the enclosed 2009 AGM minutes with you to this year's AGM on 26th November. Please also wear your name badge or let Diana Serman know if you have not yet got one, and she will bring one for you (contact details on page 2).

MANUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE 1ST DECEMBER

These may be paid at the AGM if convenient.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this piece I can sense that the days have become noticeably shorter and the evenings cooler. The passing from summer to autumn serves as a reminder of life's other transitions. What do I mean by that? In short the time has come to move on. Our constitution states that the term of office for the Chairman is a period of no more than 6 years. Having served for that time, I must now make way for a successor. It is important that the Society be re-invigorated at regular intervals with new leadership, fresh ideas and a different style. This is undoubtedly what those responsible for framing the constitution wanted and I fully support this notion.

Members will be aware that our vice chairman, Nigel Quick, will be proposed as chairman at the AGM. Nigel's familiarity with the management of development and infrastructure projects together with his knowledge of the planning system will undoubtedly be of great benefit in his new role. I fully support his nomination.

As I look back at my term of office, I feel satisfaction in the results of the work undertaken by my fellow committee members on the myriad planning applications where their diligent efforts have resulted in inappropriate development applications being modified or refused. Towns don't just become attractive spontaneously. It requires constant watchfulness to ensure that the best of our heritage is preserved and that new development sits sympathetically with the old. The more attractive a town becomes, the greater the pressure for further development and consequently the greater the need for constant vigilance. It is this cycle that constantly proves the worth of the Society.

One of our notable successes, though largely unseen, has been the renewal of the membership system. Over the years it had become cumbersome and unsuited to the easy addition of new members and the collection of subscriptions. Here I must mention Diana Serman who, as membership officer, put in a huge amount of time redesigning and making systematic a process that provided the impetus for a major membership drive and which now caters for over 600 members.

One high profile innovation introduced by the Society on my watch about which I feel great satisfaction is the Blue Plaque Scheme. Each plaque commemorates the life of a distinguished individual who was a former resident of the town. They form a permanent and conspicuous record of the town's heritage and will represent points of interest to locals and visitors alike. On that subject, another more recent innovation about which I am very pleased has been the Society's sponsorship and joint organisation this year of the Heritage Open Days in the town. I am quite sure that my successor will continue to support new ideas and maintain the Society's high profile.

I have greatly enjoyed the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Society and will miss working with the talented and dedicated individuals who, over the years, have formed the committee. I count everyone a valued friend and I owe each one a debt of gratitude for the unstinting help and support with which they have provided me during the last six years. I take the view that it would be wrong for me to remain on the committee with a new chairman. I will therefore stand down at the AGM. However, the wellbeing of the town remains a passion for me and so I will continue to support the society and its aims but, in the future, from the sidelines.

David Smith

CIVIC VOICE

The Haslemere Society has been a member of the Civic Trust for many years. The part subscription and part government funded body provided a national focus for civic societies and presented our views to central government on their policies and actions. It was perhaps most known to the public for making Civic Trust Awards to the very best of urban developments.

In 2009 the government decided to discontinue funding the Civic Trust.

From the ashes a phoenix has risen called the Civic Voice. It has shown new energy and vitality and promises to be much more effective than its predecessor. It is much more communicative and informs us on government policies, is a focus for sharing experiences with other civic societies and elicits views from the member societies in order to present our common causes. As with most civic societies, and after a period of some six months monitoring the successful launch and operations, we decided that we would join.

Without government funding Civic Voice has had little option but to increase the subscriptions paid by member societies. Our subscription is related to our membership at about £1 a person.

The Committee decided that the first year's subscription would be met from our reserves. However, we maintain our reserves in order to keep a fighting fund available to mount a challenge to a major planning application which might threaten the character of the town. We do not wish to see our reserves depleted year on year and therefore we will turn our attention to an appropriate increase in membership subscriptions in the years ahead.

Nigel Quick

THE 125th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The final event of the year celebrating the formation of the Society 125 years ago was a formal Anniversary Dinner held at the Georgian House Hotel and attended by 110 members. Entertainment before and during an excellent dinner was provided by an incredibly skilled close-up magician, Paul Martin, who has performed at Highgrove for Prince Charles and at Sandhurst for Princes William and Harry. As coffee was served members were entertained for over an hour by Tony Jacobs, who was the lead singer for the Sid Lawrence Orchestra, and Jim Barry who played piano for the BBC Concert Orchestra. The songs, music and anecdotes about the composers and lyricists were greatly enjoyed by all. The evening was a fitting end to a year of celebration by the Society.

Gordon Musk

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We have 614 members (145 life members, 334 who pay by standing order and 135 who pay annually, mainly by cheque. 377 of these are under 65 and 237 are over 65. Do not expect these figures to be totally accurate (!) as members do not rush to tell me when they get to 65, nor when they leave the area nor, perish the thought, the Haslemere Society itself. It takes a year or two for some information to filter through, but nevertheless these figures do remain a fair guide to our membership which I believe is the largest organisation in Haslemere.

You will find a Gift Aid form included in this mailing as we need to update our records in accordance with requirements from HM Revenue and Customs. Please fill it in if appropriate and bring it to the AGM (with your subscription, if convenient, if you are a manual payer), or take it to the Educational Museum in the High Street, or post it to John Stark, our treasurer, at 26 Courts Mount Road, Haslemere GU27 2PP. It does make a huge difference to our income if we can reclaim the tax you have paid. Many thanks.

I am endeavouring to make up a badge for every active member. Some members are so active that they lose their badges straight away. Some have lost two badges before others have even been in possession of one. I shall persevere - and try to keep up! But these badges do cost both time and money.

Diana Serman

BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

The past year has been a little quieter than 2009 on the blue plaque front.

After the Lochner plaque at Rats Castle, installed in May 2009, we have only had one other, at Penfolds in Sandrock in honour of John Wornham Penfold, a notable nineteenth century surveyor and architect who lived in the house for much of his life.

The plaque was unveiled on 28th November 2009 by the previous Mayor, William King. Over 60 people attended the ceremony, including Robin Satow FRICS, the guest of honour, representing the RICS Surrey Local Association.

Future Blue Plaque Plans

In September we unveiled a further plaque at Broad Dene in Hill Road to celebrate the life of Walter Tyndale, the artist for whom the house was built in 1910. This will replace an earlier, less informative plaque on the same house. In the coming months we also plan to erect a plaque in honour of Arnold Dolmetsch at Jesses in Grayswood Road. We are also in discussion about a plaque at the Poacher's Pocket restaurant which in the 18th century achieved a degree of infamy through its close association with parliamentary elections and Haslemere's status as a rotten borough.

Chris Harrison

PLANNING REPORT

The Planning Committee has continued to review planning applications for developments in the town and over the last 12 months submissions have been made to Waverley BC on twelve applications. We have objected to nine applications, four of which have been refused and one approved by Waverley, two were withdrawn and two are pending at the time of reporting. We have supported with comments two applications which were approved by Waverley and commented on a further one which had not been determined at the time of writing.

Recent applications which are of particular significance are :

- Approval to convert Wispers School into a care home.
- Two approvals for Undershaw, one for conversion into several residences and one to convert into a single residence.
- Approval of a reduced scheme to redevelop the Lower Street electrical shop site.
- The demolition of Clements factory and the motor cycle shop in Wey Hill, but refusal of the redevelopment scheme submitted in 2009. The submission of a revised scheme is still awaited.

The construction of increased parking facilities at the station is on hold for financial reasons and street parking by commuters continues to blight the town and cause inconvenience. Surrey County Council Highways have curtailed parking on one side of Derby Road and in Kings Road. They are planning to extend restrictions in Church Lane and Bunch Lane, but without further new parking facilities there is a distinct risk of transferring the commuter parking to other locations.

The new coalition government has indicated its intention to make significant changes to many planning directives issued by the previous government. It has already revoked the Regional Spatial Strategies and consequently the South East Plan prepared by SEEDA is no longer a statutory document and the requirement for Waverley to construct 5,000 houses in the next 15 years is rescinded. Gardens are not now classified as brown-field or development sites. Local authorities instead of Regional Development Authorities (Quangos) will be responsible for establishing the appropriate level of housing provision and incentives to build houses will be offered to local authorities. All these changes, including the prevention of pressures to reduce green belt protection, will have a major effect upon planning policies and decisions in Waverley. The preparation of a Local Development Framework and Core Strategy to reflect local aspirations will continue but without the influence of SEEDA. The Society will comment on these draft documents when they are issued..

John Greer

THE SPRING MEETING

We were delighted to welcome as our speaker a new member of the Society,

David McG Smith (the 'other David Smith') who, as Director of Markets for the City of London with responsibility for Billingsgate, Covent Garden and Smithfield markets, gave a spirited and illuminating talk on the ways in which the markets have adapted (and relocated) to meet the very different requirements of modern tastes and practices.

He said he would be pleased to arrange a visit for a small number of members. He explained that Smithfield meat market was not very suitable for such a refined crowd, but that Billingsgate would provide a lot of interest for those who were prepared to get up very early in order to be there at 6.30 am.

Anyone who wishes to join the visit now arranged for Friday, 13th May 2011, on a coach leaving Haslemere at 5.00 am should ring Diana (654 681). There is information enclosed with this mailing with more details, but please telephone before sending a cheque as places will be very limited. If many want to go, David has kindly offered to organise another visit later in 2011, probably late September or early October, so there will be a second chance.

Robert Serman

THE 2010 SUMMER PARTY

The annual summer party was held at Haslemere Educational Museum on Friday, June 11th, on a very wet evening, unusual during a hot and sunny spell. Despite being unable to enjoy the grounds, there was a lively gathering inside the museum. Entertained by a jazz band and with wine and canapés, the chatter of friends old and new indicated a successful evening.

Ann Fitchett

2010 OUTING: PORTSMOUTH THEN AND NOW

On the coach to Portsmouth James Mackie recounted his evocative personal reminiscences of the end of the war period and then, to Viviers on the docks where, to the noisy accompaniment of fish packing in the background, we learnt the names and home territory of the fish and shellfish on the slab in front of us. A historical guided walk followed, half of us having a superb guide who spoke clearly with huge enthusiasm and a great affection for her city. She kept us spellbound in spite of the pouring rain. Very unfortunately, and I am so disappointed for the other half of our group, the second guide had none of the qualities of the first. I obviously hadn't stressed enough the superior intelligence of our members. Paper-wrapped fish and chips upstairs at the Still & West Spice Island pub with eye level views of the ferries were followed by a boat tour of the harbour. The up-to-date commentary gave us information on the buildings both on shore and in the Solent itself, and on the ships, some of which have a future, while others bask in their vivid past. We travelled in time from Nelson's flagship (The Victory) to the latest Royal Navy ship, the Type 45 Daring Class Destroyer (HMS Dauntless) with stealth superstructure, commissioned in June this year.

Diana Serman

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts are set out below. A signed copy, audited by our Honorary Auditor, Mrs Clare David, will be available to members attending the AGM.

John Stark

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY

Annual Statement of Account and balance sheet for the year ended
30th June 2010

2009	INCOME	2010
£		£
3199	Subscriptions incl. Gift Aid	3204
10	Donations	14
376	Bank interest	33
186	Members' activities & events surplus	275
3771	Total Income	3526
	EXPENDITURE	
-610	Surplus for the year	104
1576	Printing & stationery	1323
58	Postage & telephone	34
134	Amenities Societies	643
423	Projects e.g. planning, Cons Area etc	0
1430	Meeting expenses, members & comm.	951
151	Advertising, Charter Fair & marketing	181
270	Insurance	280
150	WBC Design Awards	0
190	Miscellaneous	10
3771	Total Expenditure	3526
	BALANCE SHEET	
13359	Opening balance	12749
-610	Surplus	104
12749		12853
	Total funds represented by balance at bank	
11330	Deposit account & bonds	11363
1942	Current account	1651
-1387	Sundry creditors	-979
864	Sundry debtors/accrued income	818
12749		12853

John Stark (Hon Treasurer)

HASLEMERE SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

2010

AGM Friday 26th November

2011

Spring Meeting Friday 15th April
Outing Friday 13th May
Summer Party Friday 24th June
AGM Friday 18th November

2012

Spring Meeting Friday 27th April
AGM Friday 16th November

*POST FOR THE SOCIETY may be sent/delivered to
Haslemere Educational Museum, for collection by
committee members:*

*The Haslemere Society
C/o Haslemere Educational Museum
78 High Street, Haslemere
Surrey GU27 2LA
www.haslemere.com/haslemeresociety*